

Packing List/What To Bring

Fairbanks and Whitehorse have many services including large stores (see below), as well as lots of options for food, groceries, house wares, pharmacy items and clothing.

Clothing

Be prepared for extremely cold and windy conditions. This is essential for your safety and enjoyment of the Yukon Quest - watching dog team arrivals, outdoor volunteer shifts (if any), general travel, and other outdoor activities you might choose to participate in. Even if you are coming from a cold climate, please be aware that your ski jacket and winter boots from home may not be sufficient for standing outside in temperature of -20° C/ -30° F **and colder**.

The best way to pack and/or purchase is to have many layers of clothing with breathable fabrics (wool where possible). Pay close attention to your hands and feet – bring warm socks (possibly layers) as well as warm gloves/mittens with an outer wind-blocking layer and lots of hand warmer packets.

Rentals / Purchase of Gear

It is possible to rent parkas and good winter boots for 1 or 2 weeks in Whitehorse only. It can be expensive, but worthwhile, saving you from having to purchase new gear (the good quality ones can be very expensive – as much as \$600 for parkas and \$200 for boots). It also saves you from packing them as they can be bulky, and you are sure to get the right type of boots/parka for the right conditions.

Whitehorse- Arctic Range – Book early! Best is two months in advance.

Phone: (1) 867-667-2209

E-mail: info@arcticrange.com

Offering a variety of winter rental packages of varying rates

Fairbanks- There are local outfitters that can fix you right up with Alaskan gear **for sale** to fend off the cold Interior winter weather. We recommend our official specialty outdoor gear sponsor-

Apocalypse Designs - 201 Minnie Street

Phone: 1-887-521-7555 or local (907) 451-7555

Website: www.akgear.com

List of items to consider bringing with you

- ✓ Warm sleeping bag and sleeping mattress to -20°C/ -30°F
- ✓ Warm comfortable pants and long sleeve shirts (lots of layers, breathable fabrics, polar fleece or micro fleece or wool) both under and outer layers
- ✓ Warm mittens/gloves, toque/hat, scarf and lots of warm socks
- ✓ Insulated windproof pants (ski pants)
- ✓ A few packages of chemical feet and hand warmers
- ✓ Boots and parka (if not being rented or borrowed)
- ✓ Sun protection (sunglasses, sunscreen, lip balm)
- ✓ Any special food or medications you may require
- ✓ Water bottle and thermos so you can always have liquids handy
- ✓ Phone card, memory card and spare batteries
- ✓ Moisturizers and hand sanitizer
- ✓ A headlamp and lithium batteries



Don't forget to leave room in your suitcase for Yukon Quest souvenirs!

Merchandise can be purchased in both our Whitehorse and Fairbanks gift shops.

Other Considerations

Water

Interior Alaska and the Yukon have a dry, cold climate in winter. You will want to watch your level of hydration, and ensure that you drink a lot of liquids, particularly water. Watch your quantities of alcohol and caffeine, because it can affect you even more than usual in this cold and dry climate.



Weather

Be prepared! The temperatures in the Yukon and Alaska in February have reached some extremes:

According to the Government of Canada weather office, the average temperature in Whitehorse in February is -14°C/7 ° F with an extreme maximum of 12°C/ 53 ° F, and an **extreme minimum of -51°C/-60 ° F.**

Average wind speed is 13.5 km/h or 8.38 m/h.

It is not unusual for Fairbanks and the surrounding area to see temperatures as low as -60°F/-51°C with normal temperatures of -20°F to -30°F/-28°C to -34°C.